



THE TEAPOT DOME SCANDAL: How Big Oil Bought the Harding White House and Tried to Steal the Country

Laton McCartney

**Thursday, October 23, 2008
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Treasury Executive Institute
801 9th Street NW
Washington, DC**

Mix hundreds of millions of dollars in petroleum reserves; rapacious oil barons and crooked politicians; under-the-table payoffs; murder, suicide, and blackmail; White House cronyism; and the excesses of the Jazz Age. The result: the granddaddy of all American political scandals, Teapot Dome.

In *The Teapot Dome Scandal*, acclaimed author Laton McCartney tells the complex and at times ribald story of how Big Oil handpicked Warren G. Harding, an obscure Ohio senator, to serve as our twenty-third president. Harding and his so-called “oil cabinet” made it possible for the oilmen to secure vast oil reserves that had been set aside for use by the U.S. Navy. In exchange, the oilmen paid off senior government officials, bribed newspaper publishers, and covered the GOP campaign debt.

When news of the scandal finally emerged, the consequences were disastrous for the nation and for the principles in the plot to bilk the taxpayers. Harding’s administration was hamstrung; Americans’ confidence in their government plummeted; Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall was indicted, convicted, and incarcerated; and others implicated in the affair suffered similarly dire fates. Stonewalling by members of Harding’s circle kept a lid on the story—witnesses developed “faulty” memories or fled the country, and important documents went missing—but contemporary records newly made available to McCartney reveal a shocking, revelatory picture of just how far-reaching the affair was, how high the stakes, and how powerful the conspirators.

Laton McCartney is the author of the national bestseller *Friends in High Places: The Bechtel Story—The Most Secret Corporation and How It Engineered the World* and *Across the Great Divide: Robert Stuart and the Discovery of the Oregon Trail*. McCartney has written extensively on business, finance, and politics for many national magazines.

REGISTRATION: All SES members, candidates, and GS-15s in Treasury and legacy Treasury bureaus are eligible to attend. Register by October 16, 2008, on line at <http://intranet.treas.gov/tei>. DHS and legacy bureau employees should call 202-622-9311 for registration assistance.